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Haya

Most commonly known as a cheer-word, the term Haya has its origins – and is still used – in sacred rituals. "Haya!" is used to mean something like "Hail!" and is most often used in praise of Janyati, as in:

"Haya Thamë!"

The original use of the term is a ritual one, and it is said to symbolize the out-breath (Ha) and the in-breath (Ya), and thus, at the highest level, the whole course of cosmic manifestation from the out-breathing of the world by the Spirit, to its in-breathing back into Her at the end of time.

The term *Hayana* refers to the single Estate that existed in the Golden Age and preceded the division of the Four Estates, the element haya referring here to the primordial and unified state of being. The name Hayana is also sometimes applied honorifically to the fifth, or Stravë, Estate.

As a hail-word, haya can be used for all Janyati (and is sometimes used for a round-chant, honoring each of the Great Janyati in turn). It is very often used by the military for Sai Vikhë and is well known from the refrain of the rousing song:

To the knights of Caire let us raise the glass, Haya! Haya! Vihkë!

"Haya Vikhe!" was used as a battle-cry, a victory shout, and a sort of exuberant encouragement, along the lines of the American "Geronimo!"

From this, its use as a cheer for encouraging or congratulating a team or player or some other person is a very natural development.

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